

ACTION ITEM

Approval of Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for the Delta Science Proposal Solicitation

Summary: Council staff recommends the Council approve a new cooperative agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to help fund successful proposals from the Delta Science Proposal Solicitation (Solicitation) and associated staff time. The agreement, which will allow Reclamation to reimburse the Council up to \$2 million, will run from October 2018 to June 2023.

Collaborative funding of science is a key component of achieving the vision of “One Delta, One Science” and to build a common body of science to inform Delta decision-making.

Requested Action

Council staff recommends the Council approve a new cooperative agreement with Reclamation, which will allow the Council to be reimbursed for up to \$2 million between October 2018 and June 2023 (exact dates within this range will be set based on federal fiscal year requirements). This agreement would fund new contracts and Council staff time to develop and manage new contracts issued under the Delta Science Proposal Solicitation. This additional funding brings the total Solicitation to \$12 million (a combined funding amount from State sources and Reclamation) for high-quality science proposals responsive to the Science Action Agenda and the Solicitation.

The Executive Officer has delegated authority up to \$500,000 to enter into contract/agreements on the Council’s behalf. Because this exceeds that amount, this agreement and any subsequent augmentation requires Council approval.

Background

The Delta Reform Act directs the Delta Science Program to provide “the best possible unbiased scientific information to inform water and environmental decision making in the Delta” in part by funding research. To that end, the Council’s Delta Science Program has worked with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to issue a call for science research proposals, building on available Proposition 1 grant funds. Reclamation desires to support this multi-agency effort to fund critical science related to water, fish management, and adaptive management in the Bay-Delta. This effort is consistent with the Delta Science Plan, and with the Council’s collaborative approach to Delta science and implementing the coequal goals.

The Science Action Agenda, endorsed by the 17-member Delta Plan Interagency Implementation Committee (DPIIC), provided the foundation for the prioritized topics in this call for proposals:

- Human dimensions of natural resource management
- Science Synthesis
- Support and evaluate habitat restoration
- Interactions between stressors, managed species, and communities
- Monitoring, data management, and modeling

Fiscal Information

Costs to be reimbursed by Reclamation in this agreement are summarized below:

	Proposed Budget 10/2018 - 6/2023
Council Staff	\$144,154
Indirect Costs	\$31,411
Subcontracts	\$1,968,589
Total	\$2,000,000

List of Attachments

No attachments

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